

## CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. A hockey glove for protecting the hand, wrist, and lower forearm of the user,  
said hockey glove comprising:  
a glove body having closed, individual fingers and thumb stalls to receive the user's hand;  
a padded wrist cuff connected to said glove body to substantially encircle and protectively shield the user's lower forearm and wrist from impact blows;  
a plurality of independent, hand back pads connected to said glove body to protectively shield the back of the user's hand from impact blows;  
a plurality of independent, knuckle pads connected to said glove body to protectively shield the knuckles of the user's hand from impact blows; and  
a plurality of finger pads connected to said glove body to protectively shield the backs of the user's fingers from impact blows;  
wherein each said finger pad is secured to one of said finger stalls and each said finger pad comprises a low density padding layer overlying said finger stall throughout the length thereof, a high density padding layer overlying said low density padding layer, and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer so that said low density padding layer permits a limited range of flexure of said finger stall and said high density padding layer with the wear resistant cover provides impact protection.

2. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, each said finger pad further including one or more flexure joints, wherein each said flexure joint comprises a flexible hinge panel interconnecting adjacent edges split laterally across said wear resistant cover, and a lateral cut through said high density padding layer in order to permit flex of said finger stall from a substantially straight position to a curved position as corresponding to clasping movement of the user's hand.

3. The hockey glove as in Claim 2 wherein said lateral cut through said high density padding layer comprises a V-shaped notch in said high density padding layer extending from the open end of said notch adjacent said wear resistant cover to the apex of said notch at said low density padding layer.

4. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, said high density padding layer and said low density padding layer being of substantially equal thickness.

5. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, said padded wrist cuff comprises a high density padding layer and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer.

6. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, said padded wrist cuff comprises a low density padding layer overlying the user's lower forearm and wrist, a high density padding layer overlying said low density padding layer, and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer so that said low density padding layer permits a limited range of flexure of said wrist cuff and said high density padding layer with the wear resistant cover provides impact protection.

7. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, each said hand back pad comprises a high density padding layer and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer.

8. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, each said hand back pad comprises a low density padding layer overlying the back of the user's hand, a high density padding layer overlying said low density padding layer, and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer so that said low density padding layer permits a limited range of flexure of said hand back pad and said high density padding layer with the wear resistant cover provides impact protection.

9. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, each said knuckle pad comprises a high density padding layer and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer.

10. The hockey glove as in Claim 1, each said knuckle pad comprises a low density padding layer overlying the knuckles of the user's hand, a high density padding layer overlying said low density padding layer, and a wear resistant cover overlying said high density padding layer so that said low density padding layer permits a limited range of flexure of said knuckle pad and said high density padding layer with the wear resistant cover provides impact protection.

11. The hockey glove as in Claim 10, each said knuckle pad further including one or more knuckle flexure joints, wherein each said knuckle flexure joint comprises a flexible hinge panel interconnecting adjacent edges split laterally across said wear resistant cover, and a lateral cut through said high density padding layer in order to permit flex of said knuckle pad from a substantially straight position to a curved position as corresponding to clasping movement of the user's hand.

12. The hockey glove as in Claim 11 wherein said lateral cut through said high density padding layer comprises a V-shaped notch in said high density padding layer extending from the

open end of said notch adjacent said wear resistant cover to the apex of said notch at said low density padding layer.

13. A hockey glove for protecting the hand, wrist, and lower forearm of the user, said hockey glove comprising:
  - a glove body having closed, individual fingers and thumb stalls to receive the user's hand;
  - a padded wrist cuff connected to said glove body to substantially encircle and protectively shield the user's lower forearm and wrist from impact blows;
  - a plurality of independent, hand back pads connected to said glove body to protectively shield the back of the user's hand from impact blows;
  - a plurality of independent, knuckle pads connected to said glove body to protectively shield the knuckles of the user's hand from impact blows;
  - a plurality of finger pads connected to said glove body to protectively shield the backs of the user's fingers from impact blows; and
  - a padded thumb shield connected to said glove body to protect the user's thumb from impact blows, said thumb shield comprises a laterally concave, rigid thumb plate overlying the thumb stall at least throughout the length thereof, and a rigid locking plate overlying at least the lowermost portion of said thumb plate and having a length sufficient to register with a portion of said wrist cuff, whereby said thumb plate may pivotally move away from said locking plate in response to clasping movement of the user's hand, and said thumb plate matingly engages said locking plate in response to straightening of said thumb stall.

14. The hockey glove as in Claim 13 including inner and outer padding layers to sandwich there between said thumb plate, and a wear resistant cover layer receiving at least a portion of said inner and outer padding layers and said thumb plate.

15. The hockey glove as in Claim 13, said thumb plate further including a lateral ridge projecting therefrom intermediate the ends thereof, whereby said lateral ridge locks against the forward end of said locking plate in response to straightening of said thumb stall in order to prevent hyper-extension of the user's thumb.